

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 01486 060940Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SS-15 INR-10
DODE-00 /049 W

-----121308 061055Z /13 10

R 060616Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO CINCPACAF HONOLULU

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3647

ANDERSON AFB GUAM

PACIFIC ALCC HICKHAM AFB

MASS ACC KADENA AB JA/DOXL

374 TAW CP CLARK AB RP/DOO

YOKOTA CONSOLIDATED COMMAND POST

HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 1486

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, PP

SUBJECT: CLEARANCES FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA

1. DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST 14-SEPT 6 THIS EMBASSY RECEIVED 86 MESSAGES REQUESTING OVERFLIGHT AND/OR LANDING CLEARANCES, MOST FROM INFO ADDRESSEES ABOVE. 39 MESSAGES (43 PERCENT) WERE SENT VIA IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE AND 22 (26 PERCENT) WERE CHANGES TO PREVIOUS CABLES.

2. THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC IS SUBSTANTIAL FOR AN EMBASSY WHICH HAS ONLY ONE COMMUNICATOR, NO DEFENSE PERSONNEL AND ONLY FOUR STATE OFFICERS APART FROM THE AMBASSADOR. HOWEVER, WHEN ALMOST HALF THE MESSAGES ARE IMMEDIATES WITH SHORT FUSES AND MORE THAN A QUARTER ARE SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED, THE BURDEN ON THIS SIZE POST IS EXCESSIVE. THIS BURDEN WAS EXACERBATED BY OTHER MILITARY REQUIREMENTS (ARRANGING FIVE USN SHIP VISITS) DURING SAME PERIOD.

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3. IN ADDITION TO CABLE TRAFFIC, EMBASSY RECEIVED NUMEROUS PHONE CALLS WITH OTHER REQUESTS AND/OR CHANGES. MOST MEMORABLE RECENT EXAMPLE WAS CALL FROM A COLONEL MILTON IN HONOLULU AT 0130 ON SEPT 2, REQUESTING CLEARANCE FOR F4S ALREADY IN THE AIR TO OVERFLY SOLOMON ISLANDS. DESPITE MANY ORIENTATION VISITS BY

DOD PERSONNEL, NO ONE SEEMS TO PICK UP ANY FEEL FOR LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCE. HOW CAN WE BE EXPECTED AT 0130 ON A SATURDAY TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR SOLOMON ISLANDS WHICH HAS A THREE-MAN FOREIGN OFFICE (OF WHOM NONE HAS HOME PHONE) AND NO WEEKEND DUTY ROSTER? CIRCUMSTANCES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA ARE NOT VERY DIFFERENT. IN SOLOMON ISLANDS CASE, IMPLICATION WAS THAT OVERFLIGHT WOULD TAKE PLACE WITH OR WITHOUT CLEARANCE.

4. I CAN UNDERSTAND RESCHEDULING CAUSED BY WEATHER (AS IN CASE OF C-130 HERE SEPT 2-3 FROM 2330 TO 0330) OR MECHANICAL FAILURE. HOWEVER, PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE SUGGESTS OTHER CAUSES. THIS NO PROBLEM WHERE YOU HAVE UNLIMITED PERSONNEL BUT IS REAL PROBLEM WITH ONE COMMUNICATOR AND FOUR OFFICERS COVERING 365 DAYS A YEAR. CANCELLATIONS OF HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR CREWS HAS CAUSED ONE HOTEL NEAR AIRPORT TO REFUSE RESERVATIONS AND ANOTHER NOW THREATENING TO DO SAME. WE CONVINCED MANY MORE CANCELLATIONS WILL CLOSE OUT POSSIBILITY FUTURE RON FOR CREWS.

5. IN ADDITION TO WORKLOAD YOUR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS IMPOSE ON THIS EMBASSY, I MUST POINT OUT CURRENT AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WITH GOVT OF PNG AND GOVT OF SOLOMONS. THESE FREQUENT SHORT FUSE REQUESTS AND FREQUENT CHANGES ARE BECOMING IRKSOME AT THE WORKING LEVEL. FURTHER, IF UNCLASSIFIED

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US MILITARY AIRCRAFT ENTER SI OR PNG AIR SPACE WITHOUT CLEARANCE, SOME UNPLEASANT QUESTIONS COULD BE RAISED IN EITHER PARLIAMENT. SENSITIVITIES REGARDING SOVEREIGNTY EXIST IN THIS AREA, AND ADDRESSEES WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO KEEP THIS IN MIND.

6. I CALL THIS PROBLEM TO YOUR ATTENTION IN THE HOPE THAT CONSISTENT WITH OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND WHEREVER POSSIBLE: A) CLEARANCE REQUESTS BE MADE AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE; B) REQUESTS BE CONSOLIDATED (ONE REQUEST FOR FLIGHT OF FIVE ACFT RATHER THAN FIVE SEPARATE REQUESTS, ALL IMMEDIATE AND SPACED A FEW HOURS APART); AND C) CHANGES BE CUT BELOW 26 PERCENT.

7. I AND MY SMALL STAFF ARE AWARE OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND WISH TO BE OF ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE, BUT I DO HOPE THAT SOME IMPROVEMENTS, AS SUGGESTED ABOVE, MIGHT BE MADE IN ORDER TO GIVE US SOME RELIEF AND ENABLE US TO MAINTAIN TOLERABLE WORKING RELATIONS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES, FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS AND EVEN HOTELS WHICH ARE FEW IN NUMBER AND INCREASINGLY RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT RESERVATIONS FROM US.

8. IF DEPARTMENT OR OTHER ADDRESSEES HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF
HOW OTHER SMALL POSTS HAVE COPED WITH THIS PROBLEM, WE
WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THIS INFORMATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 06 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Expiration:
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TAGS: OCLR, PP
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